

## APPLICANT FEEDBACK SUMMARY

### 2013 AmeriCorps State and National Grant Competition

**Legal Applicant:** Kentucky Domestic Violence Association, Inc.

**Application ID:** 13ES145145

**Program Name:** Economic Empowerment Corps (EE Corps)

For the purpose of enhancing our programs by improving the quality and quantity of applications to the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS), we are providing specific feedback regarding the strengths and weaknesses of this application. These comments are not meant to represent a comprehensive assessment; rather the analysis represents those elements that had the greatest bearing on the rating of the application. Please note that this feedback consists of summary comments from more than one reviewer. For this reason, some of the comments may seem to be inconsistent or contradictory. Comments are not representative of all of the information used in the final funding decision.

#### Reviewers' Summary Comments:

- (+) The applicant provides compelling data that supports the need for their request of an economic opportunity-focused state-wide grant for its domestically abused clients. The applicant provides statistical data supporting the high poverty rates in Kentucky to the number of protective orders and domestic violence orders issued in 2011. Further, the applicant provides data illustrating the barriers to domestic violence survival, including self-sufficiency, safe housing, and economic empowerment.
- (+) The applicant provides specific statistical information and United States Census data relating to the number of clients served indicating a continued demand for services.
- (+) The applicant presents a very comprehensive challenge regarding many legal, housing, and financial needs that must be addressed simultaneously to help domestic violence victims to become self-sufficient.
- (+) The applicant gives numerous clear and specific examples of an array of ways AmeriCorps members will assist its target clients to move toward economic self-sufficiency. These examples, blending instruction, hands-on assistance, and advocacy, demonstrate that the applicant's approach is comprehensive and pertinent to needs of those lacking financial literacy or management skills. Activities and approaches for youth clients distinct from adults further promote the strong likelihood of feasible interventions for participants.
- (+) The applicant projects clear, measurable, specific changes in clients' financial knowledge and behaviors and describes means of measuring and reporting changes. Quantified projections are evidence-informed, and based on findings of the applicant's present and past accomplishment in the same or similar activities with the target community. Linking projections to past performance advances increases the likelihood that the project interventions and outcomes are sound and reasonably anticipated.
- (-) It is unclear what the organization will accomplish in urban areas that it would not otherwise accomplish with existing staff or volunteers. The applicant states that Members have enhanced existing services by broadening the scope of services but fails to provide clear examples of the expansion.

(-) It is unclear how the roles of the AmeriCorps members would align with the goals the applicant has described. There is a great need for AmeriCorps member positions to accomplish the many tasks described but there were no good examples provided of how each task would be achieved.

(-) The applicant did not provide sufficient information about who would provide credit counseling, who would tutor, and who would be mentoring. The applicant did not provide sufficient information about the use of the different slot types or how they are aligned with one another.

(-) The applicant does not clearly address the impact of the AmeriCorps investment. Potential community impact cannot be assessed, particularly since there was no quantification or sourced data in the description of need within the target community.